SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

5th Year

No 110

August 23 1971

ADDRESS:

HT 1217 B-SVN

C/O

DAZIMINA HANOI

19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*

and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

6 SEP 29 1972

Cont Copy

In the footstep of our fathers and brothers

THE DECISIVE FACTOR OF HISTORY

THE August Revolution was a momentous event in our history. It "**overthrew the centuries-old monarchy, shattered the yoke of a nearly one hundred-year-old colonial rule, restored power to the people and built the basis for an independent, free and happy Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. It was an extremely great change in the history of our country**" *(Ho Chi Minh, 1951 Political Report)*.

The August Revolution has taken on a tremendous historical significance not merely as a successful uprising by the people of a colonial and semi-feudal country with a long past of militancy, which has ushered in a new era in our nation's history, era in which the people become masters of their destiny, but also because it has supplied with valuable experience and enriched that of world revolution.

One of the most far-reaching lessons from the August Revolution lies in our people's sound, independent and creative line of their own that was decisive for the victory of the revolution.

History has proved that the August Revolution triumphed thanks to the clearsighted leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and the collectivity of his collaborators. It was seen first and foremost in the judicious line of the great leader of our people which has been lighting the path of our revolution and pushing it ahead. It found a clear expression in the thoroughly revolutionary spirit of our people, in their determination to resist imperialism, through to the end, the broad-based unity of all the patriotic forces in face of the common enemy, their undaunted combativeness, their stamina and fortitude, their able combination of political and armed actions as well as their independence of mind in the application of this line.

A — To have a judicious knowledge of the enemy, a neat definition of the main tasks of the revolution, spearheading the attack against the principal enemy of the people, i.e. imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism

THE correct revolutionary line of President Ho Chi Minh and his aides' collectivity shows a right understanding of the nature of the enemy, makes a clear-cut distinction between various groups in their ranks, spearheads the attack on the principal enemy of the people, and rallies broad national forces to bring revolution to success.

(Continued page 4)

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN?

WHAT is on the increase while the Saigon presidential race is entering a crucial phase? Crimes! Yes, crimes are stepped up at an unprecedented tempo.

Thieu is building new kinds of "tiger cages" at Phu Quoc, Con Dao... jails and new secret prisons in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue.... He is ordering arrests and murders of South Vietnamese patriots.

At the end of July and beginning of August 1971, he had 200 inmates of Chi Hoa and Tan Hiep jails deported to Con Dao under charge of "taking part in the election campaign."

In five days from August 1 to 5, 1971, he had, in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, 700 people apprehended, a number of whom were taken to unknown destinations.

Apart from round-ups, searches and arrests, Thieu is pursuing his "population resettlement" policy with a brutality hitherto unknown.

In July last, taking advantage of the floods in Southern Trung Bo, Thieu threw his troops into sweeps and free-killing drives, murdering or impounding 12,000 people.

In the High Plateaux, thousands of tons of bombs, shells and toxic chemicals were used by the Saigon army to sow desolation and pen up thousands of people into two big concentration zones at Pleiku and Le Co. As these places were overcrowded and provided with inadequate sanitary facilities and as food was very poor, there was a rapid rise of hunger and disease victims: according to reports from the concentration camps, from January to May only, 650 people died (300 in Pleiku and 350 in Le Co).

During Thieu's electioneering campaign alone, in Can Tho, Ca Mau and Rach Gia, 200 "sweeps" were mounted, 200 people shot to death, 800 wounded, 1,200 taken into concentration camps including 200 women, 120 children, 300 old-agers, 500 men from 13 to 50 years of age forcibly recruited into the Saigon army. In the course of "sweeps" the US-puppet used 12 children from 3 to 13 as living targets for practice.

In Saigon, Da Nang, Hue's vicinity and labouring people's wards, and in Can Tho, Tra Vinh... provinces, an epidemic of conjunctivitis caused by toxic chemical poisoning is rapidly spreading. In the Saigon toilers' quarters, 5 out of every 10 families have fallen victims to this calamity, often by entire families. In Da Nang, newly-born babies are catching numerous kinds of dangerous diseases generated by toxic chemicals, of which hundreds of them die. The local population is being threatened by rash and ulcers. It was acknowledged by many physicians that these and other diseases were the sequelae of toxic sprayings by the US. In Ben Tre and Quang Tri, in the first days of August 1971, the US-Saigon rule poured thousands of tons of such products and destroyed thousands of acres of cultivated croplands. Initial reports said that the number of people poisoned was as high as 365, and many of them died after four hours.

Social evils are also rampant. In the markets of Cau Muoi, Thai Binh, Cau Ong Lanh, Tan Dinh, Phu Nhuan (in Saigon) looting breaks loose at nightfall. In Da Nang city, in broad daylight American soldiers indulge in raping while looting, kidnapping and murders are common occurrences. "Children-kidnapping" is on the rise: 3 to 13-year old children have been abducted by the thousands in the past few months. In the Tu Nghia area of Quang Ngai and some other areas of Quang Nam, from August 1 to 7, 1971, 626 children were kidnapped and later sold to the Yankees. Drugs are posing a serious threat to the people: a number of young men heavily addicted have turned hooligans. Narcotic addicts include 50% of draftees and 30% of school girls and other people.

Prostitution and venereal diseases are rife. In Saigon only, every day at least 200 women, among them girls from 13 to 15 years of age, have to come to sanitary stations for medical care. Local physicians say this represents but a very small proportion of V.D. cases. A lot of women have been forced into prostitution for a living.

As a tool of the American aggressors, Thieu has been aiding and abetting US crimes against our people. So long as he remains in power, US aggression under the form of a "Vietnamized" war with all the concomitant crimes, calamities and deaths will continue.

Thieu wants to heap more crimes in the hope of extinguishing the fighting flames of the popular masses and opposition forces struggling against electoral frauds, but he is only pouring oil on the fire.

THE COMING ELECTIONS VIEWED BY SAIGON PRESS

"It is most reluctantly that we deal again with this unpalatable subject. By every means they (Thieu and his confederates—*Ed.*) want to save provision 7, article 10, of the draft electoral law. Occult hands in Mr Thieu's entourage leave no stone unturned to preserve that stupid article at the last minute, in defiance of the press widespread opposition."

Xay Dung (Construction), *May* 21,1971

"In spite of the press unanimous criticism, Mr Thieu's slavish agents shamelessly resort to manoeuvres, threats and bribery to have provision 7, article 10 [of the electoral law] retained."

Hoa Binh (Peace), *May* 22, 1971

"From the legal point of view, provision 7, article 10, cannot be accepted since the principle it springs from was disapproved of by the members of the Constituent Assembly when they elaborated article 52 of the Constitution. Therefore, at present, as legislators, the representatives can by no means endorse an article that was rejected by the Constituent Assembly."

Tieng Vang (Echo), *June* 9, 1971

"The existence of whatever regime here in South Viet Nam does not depend on the South Vietnamese people, but solely on the Americans. In the recent history of the South (under US occupation—*Ed.*), has there been any case of a regime overthrown by the people's will? Replacement of one administration by another has been arranged by the Americans and clowns have become leaders invariably thanks to the Americans. When the latter realize that those "personages" have played their parts, they are dropped and exit from the stage."

Tin Sang (Morning News), *June* 9, 1971

"More than at any other time, people with a modicum of self-respect are disgusted by the present revolting political scene. As the presentation of candidates has been regulated by the electoral law, there will surely be some presidential joint tickets to give a semblance of democracy. 'Decoy' politicians are actuated by privileges whereas 'decoy' political parties are synonymous with factionalism."

Duoc Nha Nam (Viet Nam Torch), *June* 10, 1971

"In the coming presidential elections, the whole ruling machine, from the central down to the provincial, district, village and hamlet levels, will be made the most of for Mr Thieu's success. Appointments, transfers and promotions of officials, distribution of economic and financial privileges will be carried out with an eye to the said objective."

Tin Sang (Morning News), *June* 10, 1971

"We (people in the US-occupied zone—*Ed.*) are completely disappointed, and it will be most unfortunate for this country if Mr Thieu continues as leader of the nation."

Lap Truong (Stand), *June* 16, 1971.

"For patriotic nationalists, such a [electoral] bill is nothing else than a manoeuvre to oust them from the political scene, one meant to select hooligans, cowardly creatures with no other talent than fawning."

Tin Sang (Morning News), *June* 12, 1971

"The electoral bill tabled for approval by a Congress smeared by no end of dirty cases, has disappointed so many people who still entertained a shred of hope to save the present situation. Therefore, despite honey words, the voters do not believe that the coming polls will be held in fairness and in freedom."

Dien Tin (Telegraph) *June* 27, 1971

"The United States government has declared that it does not interfere in the elections, yet, in fact, it is helping Mr Thieu deploy all his police machine and mount his *Phoenix* campaign to terrorize and suppress the supporters of his political opponents."

Gio Nam (Southern Wind), *July* 8, 1971

"The next congressional and presidential elections will be invalid because president Thieu is barring the way to all opposition candidates. After seven years of office he has not made any promise to the population, and their frustration has turned into disappointment. Hunger, corruption, depravation and exploitation are rampant everywhere."

Lap Truong (Position), *July* 22, 1971

"Provision 7, article 10, which stipulates that every ticket should be presented by at least 40 senators or representatives, or 100 [provincial or city] councillors, is both unconstitutional and offensive for more or less than six million electors. I am sure that these voters will not plump for those who betray their interests or are greedy for privileges and positions."

Senator **Hong Son Dong**
Dien Tin, *July* 7, 1971

"Peace will be brought about only by free and fair elections, not by deception, fraud or unconstitutional moves such as the recently approved electoral law. There will be no free and fair elections so long as the nation does not enjoy the right to self-determination, American soldiers are maintained in South Viet Vam, and elections are conducted by an administration whose fate entirely depends on the decision of a foreign power."

Lawyer **Tran Ngoc Lieng**
speaking at the founding anniversary of the **Progressive National Forces**

"*Phœnix* Operations allegedly aimed at the Viet Cong in the provinces are being used by the government as an electoral tool to arrest anyone they want. If these are fraudulent elections, they are not worth running. In the event President Thieu is reelected through dishonest manoeuvres, there will be not the least chance for South Viet Nam to survive."

Retired General **Duong Van Minh**
AFP *July* 6, 1971

"It is because of what he has done in the last four years that I have not approved him [as a candidate]. This is to show that his government is not regarded by the people as one attached to peace, nor as a successful one in social reform."

Representative **Ly Quy Chung**
Tin Sang, *July* 5, 1971

"We want to combat rigged elections, for previous ones had imposed on our country corrupt leaders caring only for their own interests. We demand that President Thieu withdraw from the race."

Committee Against Fraudulent Elections
July 18, 1971

"The right of every citizen to run elections should be respected and preserved, so there is no reason for the maintaining of provision 7, article 10 [of the electoral law]. That is a challenge to what is called democratic freedom in South Viet Nam. The present administration is but an instrument for the United States government to carry on this unjust war, which explains why the latter supports it and helps it rig elections to put in office incapable representatives, their agents who make no scruple to sell out their conscience and national interests."

Manifesto of the **People's Movement Against Electoral Fraud**
July 7, 1971

"The US has taken a passive attitude and turned a blind eye to the current election manipulations. It will meet with still greater difficulty since no one will any longer believe in its professions of impartiality."

Cong Luan (Public Opinion) *August* 7, 1971

"Once one has been able to ram through Parliament a regulation like provision 7, article 10, to facilitate one's political machinations, wresting of the law and monopoly of candidature to presidential elections... one may as well proclaim oneself President for life... instead of staging elections and spending hundreds of millions of piastres of public funds on an operation whose outcome is left in no doubt?"

Gio Nam (Southern Wind) *August* 5, 1971

SCRAMBLE FOR POWER

ON August 4, all lists of candidates to the Saigon Presidency were formally submitted to the "Supreme Court."

As man in the saddle, Nguyen Van Thieu had his application brought to the "Supreme Court" by some aides of his.

Nguyen Cao Ky, a politician in disfavour, made a show of "prestige" by going to the Court escorted by a dozen cars under the protection of an armed military vehicle. His application was filed only after his men had had to knock out a policeman barring his party's way into the building.

The other candidates made their entries each one in accordance with his own social position — as people with neither power nor strength.

Such ways were sufficient indications as to who would be in a vantage ground in the coming presidential election.

But the formal October race to the Presidency will by no means be a contest between Thieu and Ky, since the former has made use of his power to eliminate the latter from the very start. Ky's application was rejected by the Supreme Court as contravening the rules of procedure. Although his candidature was sponsored by the required 100 provincial representatives, the signatures of those representatives had not been duly certified. The provincial governors were charged by Ky with deliberate "absemteeism" to shun Ky's men coming for legalization. Ky had to muster airplanes but when the time came to hand in applications he could collect only 62 valid signatures.

Thus by a below the belt blow Thieu has jostled Ky out in the very first hours of the presidential race. His candidature had the valid support of over 400 provincial representatives. With this number of certified signatures, Thieu wanted to show his "overwhelming superiority" over all other contestants.

It goes without saying that Ky was furious. His anger was poured into the punch which knocked out the policeman in front of the Supreme Court building. And his aides let it be known that "the air force was so indignant at the Thieu's behaviour toward Ky that they wanted to bomb the Independence Palace." Some time ago, when asked about the Saigon army's reaction in case he was ousted from the elections, Ky had answered with an enigmatic smile: "Who knows what the army's reaction will be. Mr. Thieu does not know, nor does the US Ambassador." But for all his bitter words, Ky the "strong man" was beaten in the very first round.

He would feel all the more bitter if he recollected the former election campaign. At that time he was compelled by his US patrons to run on the same list, and as a second man to Thieu, although he was Chairman of the Executive Committee and all powers were in his hands. From that time on, his credit had been on the wane and he had begun to taste defeat. Right then the Yankees already mistrusted him and forced him to play the role of a figurehead. And since August 4, Ky's fate has been sealed and his role made insecure. What does he now feel as a "second-class civilian" under a "traitor's regime" as he himself often says? He has been driven by Thieu into a tight corner and virtually dismissed by his US bosses. If even Ky's star is dimmed how can other candidates'— except the Duong Van Minh-Ho Van Minh tandem's — be bright? All unable to collect the required number of signatures, they exposed Thieu's manoeuvre to monopolize those of "deputies" and provincial representatives in an effort to get rid of all competitors. Duong Van Minh succeeded at great pains in gathering only 44 signatures just to become Thieu's only opponent. Will that man who led the coup against Diem and was later removed by Nguyen Khanh, be able to compete with Nguyen Van Thieu, the then Colonel he had ordered to storm the Gia Long palace and later the Militarymen's Councils's Chairman who overthrew Nguyen Khanh. The answer to this question can already be found in the White House files.

After pushing Ky aside, Thieu took advantage of his position to advise Big Minh to "withdraw" from the race. Even if Minh continued to run, he said, he would win 55 % of the votes.

It was not fortuitous that Thieu dared challenge Big Minh in this way and forecast his own success. If Minh withdrew, it is safe to say that Thieu's victory would be a certainty. Poll or no poll, Thieu would remain President. The Independence Palace chair would be his while the role of "figurehead" would pass from Ky to Huong, a decrepit dotard always leaning on a stick and awaiting the day of his last trip. If Minh withdrew, the election would become, in Thieu's own words, only an opportunity to "confirm the people's confidence" — a mere "referendum."

But Big Minh is on the horns of a dilemma, being under strong US pressure to stay in the race for Minh's eventual defeat will only add to Thieu's glory (*BBC*, Aug. 8, 1971). This means there will still be a ballot, which gives no peace to Thieu's mind. But to protest US-pressure, Minh has withdrawn from the race. Although Thieu has succeeded in eliminating the major part of his opponents, he still has to confront an opposition and, what is more serious, a broad popular movement bent on overthrowing him, and insisting that Washington no longer support him. This movement has been unusually active denouncing electoral frauds. Thieu is well aware of who will put him once again in the Presidential seat. However, he is not without anxiety at the mounting pressure of the opposition forces.

This explains why he continues to put all his mind in the election campaign. He is using his huge apparatus of repression to terrorize, blackmail and bring under control the opposition movement. He is particularly sensitive to the actions of the students among the components of this movement: hence a whole program of his to crush the student protest, starting with the setting up by his henchmen of another Executive Committee for the Students' General Association parallel to the one under Huynh Tan Mam. A plan has also been drawn up by Thieu to force the students into a 3-month (from August to October 1971) military training with a view to keeping the students off from the August 29 parliamentary and October's presidential elections.

Of course, Thieu's manoeuvres will not end there, nor will his craftiness and perfidy. What has occurred since the beginning of the presidential race speaks volumes for Thieu's ambition to cling at all costs to his post and to serve the American imperialists' scheme of "Vietnamizing" the war. The "four nays" position of Nguyen Van Thieu is a confirmation of this. It entirely fits in with US intention to stick to him as a tool for prolonging and expanding the war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

WASHINGTON may have dicided who will be its chief agent through the forthcoming fraudulent election. But it's the South Vietnamese people who will decide the final ruin of both master and valet. South Viet Nam's fate lies in the hands of her own people who have been foiling in succession all the enemy schemes. Faced with Nixon's obstinately aggressive and warlike stance and his dark design to hang on to the bellicose clique in power in Saigon headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, the people in South Viet Nam's occupied cities and areas know very well what they should do — and they are doing what is required of them to thwart the US plan to use Nguyen Van Thieu for the prosecution of the "Vietnamized" war.

Our people who have been able to defeat the enemy in the battlefield will be in a position to fulfil their legitimate aspirations and bring the revolution to fruition.

THIEN LY

Saigon "National Assembly" as seen by a Saigon cartoonist

IN THE CITIES

o 26 Saigon students staged on August 9, an indefinite hunger-strike in protest against the unwarranted arrest of Nguyen Xuan Lap, a leader of the Buddhist Students' Association and opposition candidate in the "Lower House."

Lap was apprehended on August 1 when, together with other students, he was distributing medicines to people with eye troubles.

o On August 10, representatives of Saigon Buddhists sent a petition to Saigon Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem urging the immediate release of student Nguyen Xuan Lap.

o Earlier, on August 3, another hunger-strike was also held by 10 Buddhist students, with the participation of Davis Dull, head of a visiting delegation of American students. Police and thugs hired by Thieu were sent to the scene where they tore slogans to pieces and beat up the strikers.

o A conference was held in Saigon by representatives of 20 private schools in Saigon - Gia Dinh area to co-ordinate actions against arbitrary increase of school fees.

The conference strongly denounced the Thieu administration for having planted its agents in student bodies for sabotaging activities. It was decided that students would strengthen their unity and make more efforts until they achieved their aim. The Teachers' Committee and Peasants' Association also issued a statement denouncing Thieu's aiding and abetting certain school managers in persecuting students, and urged the immediate release of arrested students.

o On August 10, "Opposition" groups demonstrated in front of An Quang Pagoda against Thieu's election manipulations. Professor Tran Tuan Nham, a candidate to the "Lower House" held up a poster representing Nixon sporting Hitler mustaches with a line across his face. He also strongly protested the illegal arrest of student Nguyen Xuan Lap, another "Lower House" candidate. He was afterwards apprehended by the Thieu authorities.

THE DECISIVE FACTOR OF VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

Everyone knows that the revolution of Viet Nam — a colonial and semi-feudal country — has two fundamental tasks closely related to each other, the main one being the struggle against aggressive imperialism which is the most dangerous enemy of all social segments, of the nation as a whole.

Over the past 17 years our people have been confronting US imperialism, their mortal foe, the topmost imperialism, the international gendarme and the enemy No 1 of the Asian and world peoples. Like the first resistance war against French colonialism, the current one against US imperialism is the continuation of the same combat for national salvation along the path charted by the August Revolution. With these two wars, our people have been aiming first of all at defending their revolutionary gains, their revolutionary power, and also at completing revolution throughout the country. Full comprehension of the revolutionary line in the conduct of the present resistance, therefore, is crucial and of decisive importance for the triumph of the revolution in South Viet Nam.

We all realize that the most dangerous enemy of our people at present is the US imperialist aggressor. Unlike French imperialism in the past, American imperialism, our present adversary, is a young imperialism with big economic and military potentials. It has been invading our country at a time when military science has been vigorously developing. On the other hand, its war of aggression has been unfolding in the context of the decline and disintegration of the capitalist system, of the desuetude of old-type colonialism. The Nixon doctrine has been precisely developed as the world counter-revolutionary strategy of US imperialism, and "Vietnamization" as the strategic measure for its application. Both betray the aggressive, war-like, cruel and perfidious nature of US imperialism. In face of such an enemy, it is of decisive importance for the development and outcome of the revolution to set its main task and clearly define its line. Knowing the aggressor, accurately appraising the basic and main contradictions in South Viet Nam's society, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has rightly realized that in the present conditions of the resistance war, the national question assumes a primordial position. Hence, in its 10-point program published on the founding of the Front in December 1960, as in its Political Program announced in September 1967, the basic line of the revolution in South Viet Nam is that of **a combat directed against the US imperialist aggresser.**

The NFL 10 points has set, as primordial task of the South Vietnamese people at present, the "overthrow of the disguised colonial rule of US imperialism and its dictatorial agents and formation of a national and democratic coalition government." Militarily, the program advocates the "liquidation of the US military set-up, removal of foreign military bases in Viet Nam, building of a national army for the defence of the Fatherland and the people." It also emphasizes the "abolition of the economic monopoly of the US imperialists and their henchmen," and the "elimination of the US-style enslaving and corrupt culture." The substance of the 10-point program, in sum, is the "resist US aggression and save the nation" line, the task of national revolution of the South Vietnamese people.

Concretizing and developing the 10 points, the NFL in its Sept. 1967 Political Program has been meant to "further broaden national unity, encourage and stimulate the entire people to rush ahead with the determination to fight and vanquish the American aggressors". Right in Part 1 "Rally the Entire People against US Aggression, for National Salvation," the Political Program points out: "The US imperialists are the most brutal aggressors in history, the wreckers of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, of peace and security of the peoples of Indochina, Southeast Asia and the world, the enemy No 1 of our people and humanity. The Saigon quisling administration is but a group of traitors to our nation and murderers of our people, a tool for the US imperialists to enslave South Viet Nam, perpetuate our country's partition, and pursue their war of aggression."

Prompted by the above conclusions, the NFL Political Program has laid down: "The worst enemy of our people at present are the US imperialist invaders and the traitors' client administration. "The tasks and objectives for national salvation of the South Vietnamese"

An image of national unity:
Nguyen Huu Tho Chairman of the NFL (left) and Trinh Dinh Thao Chairman of the ANDPF (right) signing the Joint communique on the establishment of the PRG

ore to "unite our entire people, resolutely defeat the US imperialists' aggressive war, topple their client administration, set up a national and broadly democratic coalition government, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and ultimately achieve the peaceful reunification of our country."

The basic content of the NFL's Political Program is: to fight US aggression for national salvation. However, the NFL rightly understands that as Viet Nam is an agricultural country with the peasantry making up 90% of its population, our resistance has to rely on the rural areas as its mainstay, rear area, and main source of materials and manpower. Therefore, land reform is the key issue of the revolution, of our resistance. It is the dream and the fighting objective of the peasantry, the army and the militia.

Land has been a millenary craving of our peasants, and a satisfactory settlement of the problem is the imperative requirement of the revolution. It means precisely emancipation of the peasants, adequate supplies for the resistance war and improvement of the peasants' living conditions which is to enable them to take a more active part in the fight against the common enemy of our people. It is with this democratic process in mind that the NFL has made clear in its Political Program the necessity to "enforce reduction of land-rent, to see to continued cultivation of the present holdings, operate a new division of communal lands, and eventually achieve land reform." Going a step farther, the Program favours "application of a land policy and realization of **the land to the tillers' motto.**" This implies requisition of lands belonging to the American imperialists and wicked landlords, their hirelings; purchasing of lands owned by landlords from a given area, depending on the land holding in each locality, for redistribution to landless or land-hungry peasants; implementation of reduction of land-rent where conditions do not yet permit land-reform; encouraging owners of industrial-crop and fruit-tree plantations to carry on their activities; respect for the legitimate land ownership of churches, pagodas and holy sees, etc.

To maintain and settle correctly the relationship between the national question and land problem constitute essential factors that make the correctness of the South Vietnamese revolution line. By establishing a sound relationship, the NFL has succeeded in rallying all patriotic forces under its glorious banner and led the resistance war from one success to another. That is the first essential factor which ensures the triumph of the revolution in South Viet Nam.

B—The building of the National United Front, the invincible force opposing aggression.

UNITY gave our people an invincible strength in the August Revolution. In face of the enemy of the nation, and with a single eye to victory over them and reconquest of independence and freedom, our entire people closed their ranks around President Ho Chi Minh, within the Viet Minh League, and brought their uprising to a successful conclusion, which substantiated this historical truism: to defeat imperialist aggressors, it is necessary to achieve the unity of the whole nation, of all patriotic forces andceaselessly consolidate and broaden the National United Front. President Ho Chi Minh's watchword **"Unity, unity, great unity, success, success, great success"** emerged as the epitome of experience gained through our people's millenary resistance against foreign invasion, as a vivid expression of the judicious, creative and independent line of the Vietnamese revolution.

In the South today, our experience in strengthening unity and in bringing together all patriotic forces within a national united front has an ever-stronger effect and a profound sense. The birth of the NFL with the mission of assembling all the South Vietnamese people for the fight against American aggression came as an epoch-making event.

To everyone's knowledge, in the face of such a dangerous enemy as US imperialism, the founding of a united front is a matter of strategy, a decisive factor of the triumph of the revolution. No class, no social section can alone bring the revolution to fruition. Our history like that of the world's peoples has shown that to fulfil their national-liberation mission, the leading revolutionary forces should win over many allies. Here in the South, with a clearly defined main task and formation of an unprecedentedly broad national united front have resulted in a most rational mustering of patriotic forces. The South Vietnamese people have achieved great successes in the implementation of their national unity policy. The united front against American aggression in the South, with the **National Front for Liberation** as its core, has supplied the pattern of a broad national united front; hence its matchless strength.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has rallied all the forces that it can rally, and won over all the forces that it can win over to its side. By using variegated and suitable organizational forms, it has aroused the national spirit of our people and given every class, social segment and individual an appropriated place within the NFL and a duty consonant with its or his capabilities.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is an alliance of social classes and sections brought together by national interests; the more the Front is consolidated and broadened, the more it is possible for the revolution to isolate the enemy and grow stronger to carry the day in the end.

Taking into consideration the strength of national union and grasping President Ho Chi Minh's teaching on the necessity of uniting the people, the NFL has written down in its Political Program: **"The strength which is an earnest guarantee for our victory over US aggression is national union without discrimination of political leanings provided they all oppose the US imperialists and their lackeys to wrest back the national rights and build the country. With any forces which, for one reason or another, do not stand within its ranks, the Front proposes to join hands against the common enemy — the American imperialists and their lackeys."**

THIS line has been obvious in each concrete policy of the Front. That is while guaranteeing the legitimate interests of the workers, peasants, intellectuals and soldiers, the Front also upholds those of other sections of the population. This explains the constant development of the Front's strength. The NFL can rally under its glorious patriotic banner not only peasants, workers, intellectuals, students and pupils but also various religions: Buddhists, Catholics, Protestants, Cao Dais and Hoa Haos; political forces such as the Revolutionary People's Party, the Radical Socialist Party, the South Viet Nam Democratic Party; other social forces, the organizations of patriotic Saigon army mutineers and those of the officers and men who have broken away from the Saigon army... Since the 1968 offensives and concerted uprisings the National United Front against US aggression has been expanded with the emergence of the **Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.** Furthermore, true to its broad unity policy, the NFL also works in concert under various forms and watchwords, with many other political organizations in Saigon and Hue in each campaign against the US imperialists and Thieu-Ky clique.

The Front's essential tenet is also reflected in its watchword urging the formation of the broad national coalition government. In this respect, the NFL Political Program was quite explicit when it mentioned "the setting up of a broad democratic and progressive regime (abolition of the US imperialists' camouflaged colonial regime, overthrow of the quisling administration, non-recognition of the rubber-stamp Saigon national assembly, abolition of the anti-national and anti-democratic constitution and laws enforced by the US imperialists and quislings; organization of genuinely democratic and free general elections, elaboration of a democratic constitution reflecting the most cherished and fundamental aspirations of all sections of the population, all nationalities, religions, patriotic and democratic parties, patriotic-minded personalities and forces taking part in the liberation of the nation; enforcement of extensive democratic freedoms, freedom of opinion, freedom of the press and publication, freedom of assembly, freedom of organization of TUs, associations, parties, freedom of belief, freedom of demonstration, etc.)"

Accordingly, the PRG of the RSVN made it clear in its 12-point program of action as follows: "In a very broad spirit of national concord for the sake of the supreme interests of the country and nation, the Provisional Revolutionary Government is prepared to enter into consultations with political forces representing various social sections and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality, including those who, for political reasons, have had to take up their residence abroad, with a view to setting up a provisional coalition government on the principle of equality, democracy and mutual respect. The provisional coalition government will organize general elections in order to elect a Constituent Assembly, work out a democratic constitution taking into full consideration the interests and aspirations of the entire people, and form a coalition government symbolizing national concord and the broad unity of all social segments." To guarantee that unity, the PRG made plain in the same document that it "prohibits all acts of repression, reprisal and discrimination against people having collaborated with either side, whether living inside or outside the country (as stipulated in the 1954 Geneva agreements)." Again, in its July 1, 1971, 7-point peace proposal it advocated the formation of a tri-segment union government, which has again supplied a fresh proof of its adherence to its basic principle.

Union is strength. It is the key to success. "Thanks to it, the South Viet Nam people and NFL have won great achievements in their resistance against US aggression. More patently than ever, the slogan "Unity, unity, broad unity; success, success great success," put forth by President Ho Chi Minh, has become a historical reality in South Viet Nam and instilled into her people an indomitable force in their confrontation with the enemy.

C — Combining political struggle with armed struggle to seize power, waging a people's war to bring the revolution to success

POWER is an imperative necessity of the revolution. To carry through this historical mission, it is necessary for the patriotic forces to use revolutionary violence against the enemy, to organize their armed forces and to wrest back power for the people through armed struggle. Thanks to this conception of revolutionary violence and its skilful application under the able leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, the August Revolution succeeded in crushing the state machine of the imperialists and to establish the people's democratic state. In the August Revolution there were two forms of revolutionary violence: fighting by the armed forces, and political actions by the politically conscious masses. Well-coordinated, these two methods can effectively complete each other and assist one another. In the present resistance to US aggression, the South Vietnamese people have been making the most of the experience of the August Revolution. They have been applying various forms of political action such as factory and market strikes, distribution of leaflets, petitions, meetings and demonstrations against the US imperialists and quislings, while mounting military operations against the enemy, wiping out or wearing out their forces, and simultaneously building up and developing the liberation people's army. The latter is composed of three arms, namely: the regular troops, the regionals and the militia and guerilla. They have been splendidly and most fruitfully coordinating their activities.

Politically, we wield absolute superiority over the enemy. We consider this to be as important as combat. We continue to educate and encourage the people, to strengthen their solidarity and to foil all the enemy divisive and deceptive moves.

The "long hair" army — the main force of political action — has been growing unceasingly. Together with the armed forces, it has been active everywhere, even in the urban centres and enemy-held areas. Political actions create conditions for the development of the armed forces and vice versa. Thanks to the skilful coordination of these two forms of militancy, the resistance force of the South Vietnamese people has been constantly replenished. In addition, these two methods of action have also been combined with agitation work among adverse soldiers in order to strike at the enemy's three mainstays. These three striking forces which depend on each other and impel one another push forward the revolutionary movement. Each of these forces plays a decisive role at a given time and in a given place, but the fiercer and longer the war, the more important the role of armed fight, whereas political actions and agitation work among the adverse troops are two indispensable efficient spearheads.

The versatile struggle of the South Vietnamese people clearly shows the continued and skilful use of the conception of revolutionary violence of the August Revolution by the South Viet Nam NFL in the present revolution in the South. This is an all-sided resistance war waged by the entire people. This is the fundamental content of the people's war brought to a new high in Viet Nam.

Grasping the line of revolutionary struggle and the tactic of continued revolutionary attack, cleverly combining various forms of action, the South Viet Nam NFL has been able to mobilize all sections of the South Vietnamese people into the people's war and a victorious resistance to aggression with an invincible force.

THEY not only fight the enemy on the military and political fronts but also on the economic and cultural fronts.

Economically, the South Viet Nam NFL is for an autarkic economy, better living conditions for the masses (an end to the US policy of economic dependency and monopoly) and stubborn opposition to the exploitation of human and material resources and feeding of the war by the war.

Culturally, we want to shape a national and democratic culture and education, and wipe out the enslaving gutter culture brought in by the US which has been harming our age-old national culture. Even in the thick of the fighting, we do not cease raising the people's cultural standard, developing literature and arts, attending to the people's health, liquidating illiteracy and dangerous diseases, especially epidemics. In all facets of the cultural life, we have been giving the lie to the enemy propagandists' stock in trade, keeping firm our confidence in our final triumph, resolute to carry to a finish the resistance war together with the entire people.

Led by the South Viet Nam NFL, the PRG, formed in June 1969, has been playing an important role in the mobilization of human and material resources for the resistance. The slogan: **"Everything for the front, everything for victory"** spells out the grim determination of all South Vietnamese to do their best and fight to the finish in order to oust the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and pave the way for the peaceful reunification of the country. As laid down in the NFL political program, our unswerving position is: **"so long as the US imperialists do not end their war of aggression, withdraw all US and satellite troops from our country and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves the internal affairs of South Viet Nam without foreign interference, our people will resolutely fight on until total victory."**

The struggle against US aggression for national salvation put up by the NFL is a sound course of action consistent with the desire of the people who harbour a deep hatred for the aggressors and their strawmen. It has been therefore warmly welcomed by all sections of the population who are resolved to rise up, million as one, and fight the enemy till total triumph.

To work out the fundamental tasks of the revolution, to achieve a broad-based national united front, to cleverly combine political actions with armed fight, are the essential factors of victory of the South Vietnamese people's resistance war.

Of course, the signal accomplishments of the revolution in South Viet Nam are also due to other major factors, but the most important one vouching for victory is a sound, clever and independent leadership.

Commemorating the 26th anniversary of the August Revolution and Independence Day (Sept. 2) we shall review our past experience. Looking back to the factors of success of the South Viet Nam revolution we shall be all the more proud of the judicious, skilful independent line of the Vietnamese revolution, more resolute to fight and more confident in the ultimate triumph of our cause.

The effort of our people has been making steadier progress than ever. Nevertheless, the White House, very obdurate and crafty, still refuses to respond seriously to the seven-point peace proposal of the PRG of the RSVN by trying to protract the murderous war of aggression through "Vietnamization" and war expansion all over Indochina and to secure a position of strength in the battlefield so as to dictate its conditions for the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue at the conference table. More than ever, continuing the glorious tradition of the August Revolution, all the South Vietnamese people will step up the resistance war on the three fronts — political, military and diplomatic — and fulfil President Ho Chi Minh's last wishes to bring the revolution to complete success.

Long live the spirit of the August Revolution!

The resistance to US aggression for national salvation of the South Vietnamese people will triumph!

HUYNH VAN LY

(From the paper **Giai Phong,** *Central Organ of the South Viet Nam NFL)*

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN

THE Indochinese peoples have foiled the biggest strategic scheme of the US imperialists in the last dry season.

By fielding nearly all Saigon strategic mobile forces with the highest degree of co-operation of the US troops in two simultaneous large-scale operations: "Complete Victory 1-71" (northeast Cambodia) and "Lam Son 719" (Highway 9-Southern Laos), Nixon eagerly hoped to win a decisive military victory and thereby bring about a change for the better in the position of the US imperialists and their lackeys. The strategic move of the US imperialists in this 1970-71 dry season was aimed at destroying the strategic supply route and resistance bases of the three Indochinese peoples, isolating the South Viet Nam revolution, and securing a stable posture for the Saigon army and administration at least for 1971 and 1972.

The enemy intended to seriously weaken the resistance of the three Indochinese peoples, create difficulties and prevent PLAF large-scale offensives for a long time. They wanted to gain a military victory on the battlefield in the dry-season so as to vindicate the success of "Vietnamization" and the "Nixon doctrine," make it possible for the United States to withdraw more troops and buy time for the Saigon army and administration to consolidate. The realization of this military design would give Nixon some leverage for US presidential elections next fall.

This plan had been long prepared. Soon after assuming power, Nixon began frantically building up and consolidating the Saigon troops, particularly the strategic general reserves and the main force divisions, steadily shoring them up and resolutely keeping them off premature confrontations with the hard core of the liberation troops. Early in 1971 Nixon thought that with US improved equipment, training and guidance, the backbone of the "Vietnamized" war could be tested in the battlefield and would surely bring the hope for military victory. But the more ambitious the US strategic scheme, the heavier the US failure at the hands of the three Indochinese peoples. The two large-scale operations in Northeast Cambodia and Southern Laos were completely crushed by the armies and peoples of South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. The Saigon main force received "stunning" blows on Roads 4, 7 (Cambodia) and 9 (Southern Laos). 23,000 American and Saigon troops put out of action out of the 45,000 deployed in the invasion of Southern Laos, and 13,000 out of 20,000 engaged in Operation "Complete Victory 1-71" in Cambodia, are figures of great significance.

They were thrashed at Ngoc To Ba, Ngoc Rinh Rua, Firebases 5, 6, Fuller, Binh Long, Tay Ninh, U Minh (South Viet Nam). They were routed not only at Ban Dong (Southern Laos), Snoul (Cambodia) but also in many other places in the Western Plateaux, Central Trung Bo, Tri-Thien-Hue, Eastern Nam Bo. Not only was adverse manpower heavily decimated in the battlefields of the three Indochinese countries during the last dry season (75,000 casualties including 28,500 Saigon mercenaries in Cambodia, 31,200 in Laos, and 151,000 in South Viet Nam in the first six months of the current year), but, qualitatively, the best units of the Saigon army belonging to the general strategic reserves, the 1st Division and 3rd Army Corps received devastating blows, let alone many Phnom Penh and Vientiane hard-core battalions knocked down. In terms of war materials, 770 military vehicles were destroyed in Laos, 2,700 in Cambodia and 4,200 in South Viet Nam, along with 652 aircraft downed or destroyed on the ground in Laos, 4,900 in Cambodia and 1,160 in South Viet Nam.

"Pacification" marked time in the Mekong delta, in the plains of Central Trung Bo: the enemy grip was further loosened. 2,260 "strategic hamlets" in South Viet Nam (one-third of the total) were repeatedly stormed, damaged or dismantled by the people during uprisings to seize power. The *New York Times* observed that the pacification plan was beset with many shortcomings, especially in the 15 provinces south of Saigon and in the Mekong delta. And *AP* (Dec. 20, 1970) reported that in the 3rd Tactical Zone, the Western High Plateaux and the plains along the coast 99% of the people sided with the "Viet Cong."

All this dashed Nixon's hope and drove him into an increasingly tighter corner.

The US imperialists failed to cut off our strategic supply route even for a single day, let alone one year or two as planned.

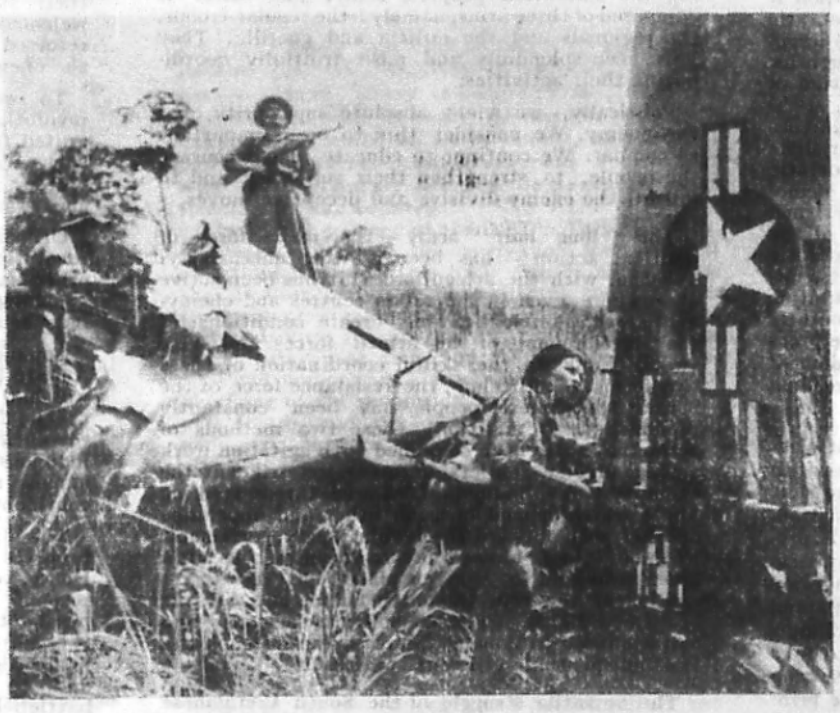
They were unable to destroy the resistance base of the three Indochinese peoples which was instead enlarged and consolidated into an impregnable system, while sturdy Liberation armed forces kept on striking vigorously and incessantly at the US-puppets in every place.

They meant to show off the strength of the Saigon main force, but the latter licked the dust: defeat has been undermining it and its morale has sunk to an unprecedented low.

CLEARLY enough, in the past six months the US-puppets fell far short of any objective and their force has been on the downgrade. They wanted to make a step forward in the dry season but were repelled a step back. Their whole military strategy has been jeopardized.

The US-Saigon military fiasco in the three Indochinese countries in the last dry season was inevitable for it stemmed from an adventurist strategy. It was not the first time Nixon made a mistake in spilling the war over the entire Indochinese peninsula. This blunder was built in the "logic of the adventure" — to quote a Western paper. All Nixon's adventurist moves spring from "Vietnamization", an adventurist strategy plagued with risks and contradictions. In the limited war strategy, the United States which had 550,000 expeditionary troops in the South Viet Nam battlefield was unable to improve the situation. How can Nixon win now that he is compelled to withdraw part of US troops? Despite a huge US expeditionary force to shore them up, the Saigon troops were defeated: to believe that without US troops the Saigon army can "stand on its own" is mere wishful thinking.

As US strength is cut down to 200,000 men, an important change can be seen in the balance of forces in the battlefield. The test of "Vietnamization" has entered a decisive phase. To escape from its predicament the United States has chosen to embark on military adventures. Over the past two years, from the inroads against the Plain of Jars to the armed aggression of Cambodia, from Operation "Complete Victory 1-71" to the "Lam Son 719" strategic drive into Southern Laos, Nixon has undertaken venture after venture in the search of a solution for his "Vietnamization." But the results have been clear: this strategy which has met with increasing setbacks is doomed to complete collapse for it is a gamble with dangerous war moves (*New York Times*, February 7, 1971).



The myth of US airforce superiority exploded

ADVENTURE, gamble, defeat, such is the routine followed by the Nixon clique in the Indochina war. After two years of building up the Saigon army and pinning his hope upon it, Nixon has reappraised his adventurist strategy in the light of the test by fire in the dry season. However, as a most obdurate head-aggressor relying on US powerful economic and military potentials, despite smarting blows, Nixon refuses to face facts and continues to follow his beaten track. Of course, he will meet with greater reverses. The armies and peoples of the three Indochinese countries are holding firm in hand the key to victory: they will follow up their achievements in the last historic dry season.

THANH HONG

"PACIFICATION" FOILED IN WESTERN NAM BO

A women-guerilla unit in Nam Bo Delta

WESTERN Nam Bo, a crowded and fertile area, is the Western part of the Mekong Delta, one of the US-Saigon "key pacification areas." For many years the enemy has been making many efforts including the deployment of a big Saigon main force in large scale operations to "pacify" it. Like in many other places in the Mekong Delta, the Americans and the quislings have been compounding military, political and economic measures with utterly cruel and wicked schemes, and combined terror and repression with deception and bribery. However, because of the very nature of their unjust cause, their weak political basis and their losing posture, they have had to concentrate on force and coercion. Typical of this was the major operation dubbed "U Minh Campaign" which lasted over four months from early December 1970 to late April 1971.

In order to hold sway over the population and check guerilla warfare, they have set up a thick network of posts—up to 700 or 800, some villages with a few thousand people being watched by more than 10 posts. The repression apparatus, including hired killers, policemen and spies, has been expanded to the utmost so as to keep the population under firm control. "Propping up" operations have been launched with unprecedented fierceness, while explosives and toxic chemicals used in quantities unknown so far and all kinds of horrors committed, including mass massacre, levelling of villages, food-denial program to force the population into "strategic hamlets." But over the past six months the Western Nam Bo armed forces and people have been vigorously resisting this "pacification," especially in the areas under US-Saigon control. Most outstanding of this was the movement to pull down "strategic hamlets." In three 4 "pacification" brigades, 1 Southern provinces alone, more than 1,000 families and 33,000 people have risen up and left for home to resume farming and build fortified villages to defend themselves against enemy raids. In the "strategic hamlets" where the inmates have conquered power, guerillas have been very active. Thousands of fortified villages and hamlets have emerged with the liquidation of the enemy repressive apparatus.

In coordination with the destruction of "strategic hamlets," people of all walks of life, nationalities and beliefs have been resolutely countering enemy sweeps, plundering operations, herding of population, and drafting of youths (160,000 attendances). Most remarkable was the movement against pulling down of houses and forcible resettlement into "strategic hamlets," during which people refused to leave their houses and crops and often used sticks and spears against evictors.

Right in the first months of 1971 the US-Saigon "pacification" plan already met with fierce opposition and fell to pieces in many places. In order to help the popular effort against the enemy grip, all the three categories of troops in Western Nam Bo joined forces and struck hard at the enemy repressive forces, attacked hundreds of posts and military sector CPs providing support to "pacification."

The armed forces and people of Western Nam Bo beat off the big and protracted enemy operation in the U Minh area. Other coordinated adverse thrusts into South Ca Mau, Ba Hon (Rach Gia) and sorties in many other provinces were also checked.

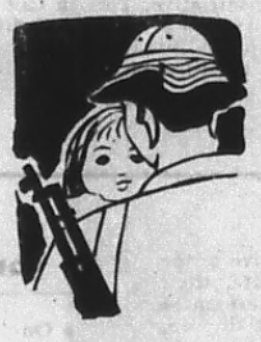
The Liberation armed forces in Western Nam Bo have been gradually foiling the US-Saigon enclave., river flotilla, heliborne tactics... Guerilla warfare, in particular, has been gaining in scope and tempo everywhere and pinning down many enemy columns. The guerillas have been using many home-made rudimentary weapons, have devised many fighting methods and secured a foothold in the enemy areas, knocking out whole groups of militiamen and cruel thugs in "strategic hamlets" and suburban areas, helping the population break the enemy grip.

The armed forces and people of Western Nam Bo have done their bit in doing short work of the US-Saigon manpower and a considerable amount of war means. According to still incomplete figures, they have over the first six months of 1971 put out of action 35,700 enemy troops including over 1,000 officers and one brigadier, and disbanded over 8,000 men. They have erased 2 military sectors, written off 42 companies, 6 "pacification" brigades, badly mauled 8 battalions, 38 companies, armoured squadron and levelled 10 battalion CPs, put out of action combat groups and river flotillas and destroyed and razed over 1,000 posts, blockhouses, barracks. As for war means, they have set afire 192 vessels and combat launches, downed 200 aircraft, and wrecked hundreds of military vehicles.

THE Western Nam Bo armed forces and people have thus crippled the US-Saigon "pacification" and encroachings cheme. However, the enemy are still obdurately sticking to their guns and committing more atrocities in a desperate attempt to implement their "Vietnamization of the war." They are flinging more troops into new raids on the U Minh and the Seven Mounts areas near the Cambodian border. Nevertheless, the situation in the past six months has clearly shown that so long as they try to keep their hold on Western Nam Bo, they will sustain bitterer setbacks in this "key pacification area."

T. C.

A Resourceful Commander



LE Thanh was born in 1932 to a poor peasants' family in Ben Tre province.

At 16, during the war of resistance against the French colocialists, he took part in revolutionary activities in his native village.

In October 1960, he was transferred to the provincial regional forces. Rising from the ranks, he soon became an able commander with a record of 121 battles. Under all circumstances, he held high the revolutionary banner of relentless offensive and dauntlessness before difficulties and dangers and accomplished his tasks with brilliant success. In all the five times when he was wounded, Le Thanh remained at his post to continue directing the fight.

In the assault on the military training centre S., the shock group under his command right at the outset ran into heavy barrages of artillery and machinegun fire. Le Thanh was grievously wounded, but he continued to lead his team in a frontal assault on the headquarters of the enemy camp, destroying one bunker after another.

In November 1968, the battalion under Thanh was assigned to beat off a "sweep" in S. involving nine battalions of Saigon troops. Together with his second in command, he calmly directed the fight on a narrow strip of land, repelling several waves of assault by the enemy, inflicting 500 casualties. One of his jaws was broken by a splinter but Thanh refused to leave his post.

Firm and resourceful in his command, Le Thanh quickly and accurately took stock of the situation of the battlefield and made prompt decisions at the most crucial moments to enable his unit to gain a vantage ground and win the battle. For instance, during the ambush at T., he ordered his unit to block the enemy's retreat then to take on the forward column, thereby providing the best opportunities for his unit to wipe out completely the "Black Tiger" battalion of the puppets.

In the assault on post P., he was given the command of an evacuation team. When seeing that the shock unit of the liberation army was running into a withering fire of the defenders, Le Thanh unhesitatingly took the lead of a reserve unit and dashed forward in a flank attack into the centre of the enemy's lair, doing short work of resistance pockets one after another.

In the general offensives in South Viet Nam in early 1968 his unit was assigned the task of destroying the enemy forces stationed in the town X. On its way to the target his unit bumped into an enemy patrol. The situation took a bad turn because the liberation fighters were denied the factor of surprise and secrecy. Without losing a second, Le Thanh ordered his men to engage the interception force and at the same time to occupy vantage points, putting to rout the enemy troops and securing the safe withdrawal of his unit.

IN the sustained fight in the town, Le Thanh was a military commander and also a political commisar, going to each unit to keep up the morale of the fighters in face of the furious counter-attacks of the enemy and the privations resulting from a protracted action. His unit was later cited for its unflinching combativeness and exemplary discipline in the conditions of utmost adversity. When ordered to withdraw toward the defensive line, Le Thanh's unit fought a bitter battle against enemy interception forces and safely evacuated all the wounded. Le Thanh personally took charge of a small unit who stayed back to draw on them the enemy fire and provide cover to their retreating mates.

For his signal achievements, Le Thanh has been awarded a Liberation Exploit Order, First Class, a Liberation Exploit Order, Second Class, and two Exploit Orders, Third Class.

Nixon urged to answer

TWO months after its publication, the RSVN PRG's 7-point peace initiative has enlisted wide support from world opinion which regards it as a "correct basis to bring about peace in Southeast Asia," (Declaration of the socialist countries' state and party leaders meeting in Crimea on August 2), a proposal "which practically paves the way for an end to the Indochina war and for the peaceful re-unification of Viet Nam (I.U. Tsedenbal), "a key opening an honourable way out for the US government" (Statement of the Lao Patriotic Front), "a good basis to negotiate the pullout of foreign troops from Indochina," an "illustration of the PRG seriousness and goodwill for peace" (the Congo (B) Foreign Minister), a "logical and reasonable offer of great importance, a flexible overture whose contents are consistent with the aspirations and demands of the Vietnamese people" while "meeting the desire for peace of the people in the USA and the world" (Statement of the National Union Royal Government of Cambodia).

Not few have been statements, messages of greetings from governments, heads of states, international organizations, politicians, people of all walks of life, from all corners of the globe. Hundreds of thousands of French and Scandinavians turned out into the streets, scores of thousands of people in Latin America, North Africa, Middle East, Oceania and Asia, held meetings, demonstrations, teach-ins or "Support Viet Nam" weeks, in stirring applause of the 7-point new peace plan.

In the USA, peace activists have disseminated it in time to Americans, demonstrations have taken place in various localities pressing Nixon to accept it and make public at once a time-limit for total US troops withdrawal, to stop supporting the Saigon warlike group headed by Thieu.

The PRG new peace proposal has also had immediate repercussion in Congress. Senator Muskie held that it is the best ever offer to stop the war, and Senator Hughes Scott noted that it is the most exalting and encouraging news, while former US Defense Secretary Clifford appealed to the US government not to let a good chance pass by to disengage from the war in Southeast Asia.

Over these two months, the press, radios and TV across the world have unceasingly released news and comments on the 7-point proposal, pointing to its just cause and laying bare Nixon's aggressive and bellicose character.

Le Combattant (Algeria) said on July 2 that it is for the sake of peace that the PRG has just put forward its new proposal, and the Paris Conference's two-year stalemate must be imputed to Washington and Saigon representatives' dilatory moves. The *Frankfurt Times* (West Germany) urged the White House to choose a way and the *Washington Post* said that the US government cannot elude indefinitely the PRG peace initiative. Nixon, that paper added, should be held responsible for his next measures. The Burmese paper *Point of View* recently blamed him for playing once again the round-about game. The *Boston Globe* noted that Nixon must raise his voice. As for the Americans, their option is clear: 73% of them want US troops to pull out of Indochina by the end of this year.

Nixon has over these 2 months been deliberately evading a serious answer to the PRG fair initiative. His words and deeds have exposed before world opinion the true colours of a die-hard and perfidious aggressor. The whole world witnesses his ballyhoo about the POWs' issue. He declared on April 29, 1971 that the US will remain in South Viet Nam as long as US POWs are kept in the North, and the announcement of a deadline for the total pullout of American GIs will be postponed until assurrance of the POWs' release. But when the settlement of the issue of captured servicemen and civilians was made clearer in point 1 of the PRG peace initiative, Nixon kept silent. Six women on behalf of captured armymen's families sent a letter to the White House, urging Nixon not to swallow up his promises.

Everybody knows how he has made a clamour about the "respect for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination." But so far, Nixon has been pressing them to accept the rule of the chief traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. American opinion has warned him not to give priority to the maintenance of the Saigon government. Senator Walter F. Mondale charged Nixon for "only showing greater concern for the fate of a dictator in Saigon—and a strange conception of prestige at that—than the future of the United States."

It is evident that Nixon has intentionally eluded a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. US - Saigon increased military activities in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, air attacks on certain populated areas of the DRVN, and feverish preparations for phoney presidential elections in Saigon to put again Thieu in the saddle for another term are indications that Nixon is obstinately seeking a "military victory" and trying to implement his own doctrine and "Vietnamization" strategy. His criminal deeds constitute a shameless challenge and run counter to the legitimate demands of the people in the USA and the world. His rabidness only drives him deeper into the morass of the war and further isolates the US government.

The South Vietnamese people who have gone through 26 years of war ardently cherish peace. But it must be a peace in independence and freedom. As long as the Nixon administration stubbornly carries on its war of aggression, the South Vietnamese people will fight on resolutely and harder. We have at heart the world people's valuable support to the PRG peace initiative. This in fact is a great encouragement to overcome all difficulties and step up our anti-US struggle for national salvation till final victory.

LUU NGUYEN

An anti-US war demonstration in Sydney (Australia)

New Zealand

Demonstrations against US aggression in Indochina

ACCORDING to reports from New Zealand, some 32,000 people across that country have been demonstrating in protest against US aggression in Indochina and demanding the immediate pullout of GIs and "allied" troops.

In Auckland, over 10,000 people took part in "the Auckland Mobilization." Speaking at this rally, Mr Wilcox, General Secretary of the New Zealand Communist Party, underlined that in the Indochinese people's war, the people's great strength has been mobilized for a just cause and is defeating the most powerful and wealthy imperialist country: the US imperialists.

In Christchurch, 12,000 people staged a demonstration carrying among others the slogan: "The Indochinese people's war is showing us how to defeat the US imperialists." In Wellington, 8,000 persons, mostly workers, paraded along the streets, holding high the streamer: "The victory of the Indochinese workers means the victory of the New Zealand workers."

Besides, similar meetings, demonstrations and marches have taken place in North Palmerston, Napier, Whangarei, Hamilton and Taurang.

in brief ★ in brief

• On August 11, in Warsaw, President D. Galaj of the Polish SEJM and in Budapest, Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Peter strongly condemned the US Government's obstinate refusal to settle the Viet Nam issue on the basis of the RSVN PRG 7-point proposal.

• In the "Month of Soviet - Viet Nam Friendship and Solidarity," meetings and exhibitions have been staged by the Soviet working people in Moscow, Ukrain, Krasnodar, Konokevo, Kalinin, Briansk, etc., to warmly hail the initiative of the RSVN PRG and reiterate their resolute support to the Vietnamese people's resistance against the US, for national salvation.

• On August 5, over 300 Polish students held a meeting in Olsztyn to urge on the US and its Saigon flunkeys an immediate end to terror and repression against South Vietnamese student organizations and release of the leading members of the latter illegally detained by them.

in brief ★ in brief

• On August 6, Canadians in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg, etc., turned out in the streets to protest the US continued aggressive war in Indochina and demand the pullout of the GIs from that area.

• Recently, US anti - war demonstrators have put up a poster exhibition in New York Art Gallery calling upon the American people to force Congress into prompt action for an end to the Indochina war.

• On August 10, the Council of Michigan Trade Unions belonging to the AFL - CIO adopted a resolution urging the total withdrawal of the American troops from South-East Asia.

• On August 1, 100 US air men stationed in England called at the US Embassy in London and handed in a petition protesting the arrest of GIs who had taken part in the anti-Viet Nam war demonstrations and claiming freedom of speech for US troops overseas about this war.

in brief ★ in brief

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION